SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

The papers included in this Supplemental Notice of Allowability replace the similar

papers mailed on 3/3/2010 in their entirety. This supplemental action is being submitted

in order to correct matters of form in the Examiner's Amendment mailed 3/3/2010.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Stephen W. Kopchik on January 26, 2010.

3.   The application has been amended as follows:

   Claims 3 and 5-15 have been cancelled.

Claim 1.   (Currently Amended)   A sales system comprising:

        a recording medium for use in purchasing a commodity;[[, and]] a register

apparatus for performing processing for settlement of payment for purchase of the

commodity;[[,]] and a server apparatus for managing commodity sales information

relating to sales of commodities, the server apparatus being located in a shop,

        wherein the recording medium includes:

                a reception unit configured operable to receive pre-receipt information

indicating a regular selling price of the commodity, and commodity information;

a storage unit <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to store condition information that indicates a condition to be fulfilled in order for a discount to be applied to the regular selling price of the commodity, and calculation method information indicating a method for calculating a discount amount;

a judgment unit <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to judge, when the commodity is being purchased, whether the discount is to be applied, based on the condition information;

a calculation unit <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to calculate, when the judgment unit judges that the discount is to be applied, the discount amount, based on the calculation method information and the pre-receipt information; and

an output unit <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to output the discount amount, ~~and~~
<u>wherein</u> the register apparatus includes:

a generation unit <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to generate the pre-receipt information, the pre-receipt information being generated before the judgment unit of the recording medium judges that the discount is to be applied;

a reception unit <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to receive the discount amount;

a calculation unit <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to calculate a discounted selling price of the commodity by subtracting the discount amount from the regular selling price; and

a payment processing unit <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to perform settlement processing for payment for selling the commodity at the discounted selling price<u>.</u>[[.]]

<u>wherein the recording medium stores thereon bearer information in correspondence with the condition information and the calculation method information, and is configured to output the bearer information in correspondence with the calculated discount amount, the bearer information indicating a bearer who bears the discount amount that is discounted from the regular selling price,</u>

<u>wherein the register apparatus is configured to receive the bearer information, and output the commodity sales information in which the bearer information is included,</u>

to the server apparatus, and

        wherein the server apparatus stores therein shop server management
information that indicates a manager of the server apparatus, and is configured to (i)
receive the commodity sales information that includes the bearer information, and
stores the commodity sales information, (ii) judge whether the bearer information
included in the commodity sales information matches the stored sales server manager
information, and (iii) when the commodity sales information is judged to not match the
stored sales server manager information, transmit the commodity sales information to
an external server managed by the bearer indicated by the bearer information and
delete the stored commodity sales information.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended)   The sales system of Claim 1, ~~further comprising a
server apparatus located in a shop, the server apparatus being operable to manage
commodity sales information relating to sales of commodities,~~

        wherein ~~the register apparatus is further operable to output commodity sales
information to the server apparatus,~~ the commodity sales information includes ~~including~~
the regular selling price of the commodity that has been sold, the discount amount, and
the discounted selling price, and

        wherein the server apparatus is further configured ~~operable~~ to ~~receive the
commodity sales information, and~~ internally store the received commodity sales
information.

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended)   The sales system of Claim 1[[3]], further comprising a
server apparatus provided in an external location to the shop,

        wherein the server apparatus provided in the external location is the external
server, and stores ~~is operable to store~~ therein external manager information that
indicates a manager of the external server and that matches the bearer information, and

is configured to receive the commodity sales information from the server apparatus located in the shop, and internally store the received commodity sales information.

Claims 5-15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended)   A sales system comprising a mobile information terminal for use in purchasing a commodity:[[,]] and a register apparatus for performing processing for settlement of payment for purchase of the commodity:[[,]] and a server apparatus for managing commodity sales information relating to sales of commodities, the server apparatus being located in a shop,

     wherein the mobile information terminal includes:

          a reception unit configured operable to receive pre-receipt information indicating a regular selling price of the commodity, and commodity information;

          a storage unit configured operable to store condition information that indicates a condition to be fulfilled in order for a discount to be applied to the regular selling price of the commodity, and calculation method information indicating a method for calculating a discount amount;

          a judgment unit configured operable to judge, when the commodity is being purchased, whether the discount is to be applied, based on the condition information;

          a calculation unit configured operable to calculate, when the judgment unit judges that the discount is to be applied, the discount amount, based on the calculation method information and the pre-receipt information; and

          an output unit configured operable to output the discount amount, wherein the register apparatus includes:

          a generation unit configured operable to generate the pre-receipt information, the pre-receipt information being generated before the judgment unit of the mobile information terminal judges that the discount is to be applied;

          a reception unit configured operable to receive the discount amount;

          a calculation unit configured operable to calculate a discounted selling

price of the commodity by subtracting the discount amount from the regular selling price; and

a payment processing unit <u>configured</u> ~~operable~~ to perform settlement processing for payment for selling the commodity at the discounted selling price<u>.</u>[[.]]

<u>wherein the mobile information terminal stores thereon bearer information in correspondence with the condition information and the calculation method information, and is configured to output the bearer information in correspondence with the calculated discount amount, the bearer information indicating a bearer who bears the discount amount that is discounted from the regular selling price,</u>

<u>wherein the register apparatus is configured to receive the bearer information, and output the commodity sales information in which the bearer information is included, to the server apparatus, and</u>

<u>wherein the server apparatus stores therein shop server management information that indicates a manager of the server apparatus, and is configured to (i) receive the commodity sales information that includes the bearer information, and stores the commodity sales information, (ii) judge whether the bearer information included in the commodity sales information matches the stored sales server manager information, and (iii) when the commodity sales information is judged to not match the stored sales server manager information, transmit the commodity sales information to an external server managed by the bearer indicated by the bearer information and delete the internally stored commodity sales information.</u>

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The sales system of Claim 1, wherein

the judgment made by the judgment unit of the recording medium and the calculation made by the calculation unit of the recording medium are solely made by the recording medium.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The sales system of Claim 16, wherein

the judgment made by the judgment unit of the <u>mobile information terminal</u> recording medium and the calculation made by the calculation unit of the <u>mobile information terminal</u> recording medium are solely made by the <u>mobile information terminal</u> recording medium.

Allowable subject matter

4.   Claims 1, 2, 4 and 16-18 are allowed.

5.   The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

6.   The closest prior art of record are Yamada (US Publication No. 2005/0038705 A1), Fujisawa et al. (US Publication No. 2004/0117301 A1), Sako (US Patent No. 7,093,754 B2), Giuliani (US Patent No. 6,282,516 B1), and Biorge et al. (US Patent No. 5,806,045).

Yamada discloses a system and method relating to a POS (Point Of Sales) server (point-of-sale server), a local terminal, a POS system, a sales control method, and a recording medium. Especially this invention relates to the POS server which controls sales of products in a plurality of stores, the local terminal linked to the POS server, the POS system equipped with the POS server and the local terminal, the sales control method, and the recording medium that stores the above-mentioned program. the POS server controls a plurality of local terminals arranged in a plurality of stores, having the first and second control apparatus which receive and store dealing

information, from the first local terminal respectively, which shows that products dealing was conducted in the first local terminal among said plurality of local terminals, and notifies that said dealing information was received, to said first local terminal.

Fujisawa et al. discloses a system and method for managing credit card use for a plural number of credit cards and to reconcile credit card statements. The data processing system has multiple POS terminals and cash registers, and a personal computer. The POS terminals and cash registers can write card usage information to a small, portable storage device represented by an IC card having a rewritable nonvolatile storage unit for storing multiple card usage information records. The card usage information includes credit card number information, payment method information, payment date information, and payment amount information. The personal computer runs a read process to read the card usage information from the IC card, and a transaction management process based on the card usage information read by the read process. The IC card can communicate wirelessly with the POS terminals and cash registers.

Sako relates to a data recording apparatus, a data recording method, a data reproducing apparatus and a data reproducing method that are designed to activate both the market distributing contents data by means of package media and the market distributing contents data by way of wired and wireless communication means by discounting the price of the contents data being purchased by a customer by way of a wired or wireless communication means depending on the purchase history of package media of the customer and also discounting the price of the package media being

purchased by a customer depending on the purchase history of contents data of the customer by way of wired and wireless communication means.

Giuliani discloses a system and method for distributing purchasing incentives throughout departments of a retail store including an incentive processor including a network controller and a database for storing shopping histories of consumers associated with respective unique consumer identifiers; a plurality of incentive distributors located throughout the departments of the retail store, each incentive distributor of the plurality of incentive distributors having a unique address, and including, a processor, a printing device, a network interface device, and one of a card reader device and a scanner device; and a network, coupling the network controller to network interface devices of the plurality of incentive distributors, for effecting two-way communications between the incentive processor and the plurality of incentive distributors. Each card reader device and each scanner device of the plurality of incentive distributors is configured to detect a card device passed therethrough or key tag device scanned therein, respectively. The card device and the key tag device having a unique consumer identifier encoded therein, and the unique consumer identifier is detected by a card reader or scanner device of a respective incentive distributor of the plurality of incentive distributors and transmitted via a network interface of the respective incentive distributor over the network to the network controller coupled to the incentive processor. The incentive processor is configured to generate the purchasing incentives based on a shopping history of a consumer associated with a detected unique consumer identifier received from the respective incentive distributor and a

location of the respective incentive distributor determined from the unique address

thereof.

   Biorge et al. discloses a system and method for implementing a multiple

provider incentive program in an off-line or a selective on-line environment which allows

multiple transactions to be processed for a large number of service and merchandise

providers and producers (multiple providers). Included in this system is a dynamic

allocation system for collecting, transferring, and distributing funds among participating

parties. A transaction amount is derived from the transaction and, based on this

amount, an incentive credit amount is computed. The base device performs this

computation by deriving an incentive code and cross-referencing this incentive code

with all customer incentive codes stored on the customer-carried device and incentive

program codes stored on the provider device to derive an incentive rate. This incentive

rate is applied to the transaction amount to derive the incentive amount. The incentive

amount is stored on the customer-carried device. To redeem the incentive credits stored

on the customer-carried device, the customer enters into a second transaction with the

same provider or another participating provider. A second transaction amount is derived

from this transaction and the customer may choose to redeem some or all of the

incentive credits stored on the customer-carried device to lower the transaction amount.

When incentive credits are redeemed, they are subtracted from the incentive amount on

the customer-carried device.

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a system wherein the

recording medium stores thereon bearer information in correspondence with the

condition information and the calculation method information, and is configured to

output the bearer information in correspondence with the calculated discount

amount, the bearer information indicating a bearer who bears the discount

amount that is discounted from the regular selling price, wherein the register

apparatus is configured to receive the bearer information, and output the

commodity sales information in which the bearer information is included, to the

server apparatus, and wherein the server apparatus stores therein shop server

management information that indicates a manager of the server apparatus, and

is configured to (i) receive the commodity sales information that includes the

bearer information, and stores the commodity sales information, (ii) judge

whether the bearer information included in the commodity sales information

matches the stored sales server manager information, and (iii) when the

commodity sales information is judged to not match the stored sales server

manager information, transmit the commodity sales information to an external

server managed by the bearer indicated by the bearer information and delete the

stored commodity sales information. The limitation mentioned above along with

the other claimed limitations of independent claims 1 and 16 are novel and

unobvious and are deemed allowable over the prior art of record. Dependent

claims of 1 and 16 are allowable by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to FARIS ALMATRAHI whose telephone number is

(571)270-3326. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:00 AM

- 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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